30 OCT. 1963

C o n f i d e n t i a l

Not for publication

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Rochester, N.Y.

August 24-26, 1963
and August 30,1963

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Confidential

Executive Committee
August 1963

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rochester, New York, August 24-26
and August 30, 1963

PRESENT

Presidents: Archbishop Iakovos
Sir Francis Ibiam
Dr. David G. Moses
Dr. Martin Niemöller
Mr. Charles Parlin

Chairmen: Dr. Franklin Clark Fry
Dr. Ernest A. Payne

Members: Dr. C.G. Baëta
Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri
Dr. Eugene Carson Blake
Dr. Kathleen Bliss
Dr. Alford Carleton
Dr. J.Russell Chandran
Dr. Ivy Chou
Metropolitan Iakovos of Philadelphia
Bishop Hanns Lilje
Metropolitan Nikodim

Consultants: Sir Kenneth Grubb
Mr. Léonard Hentsch
Bishop Vladimir

Staff: Rev. Paul Abrecht
Dr. Roswell P.Barnes
Dr. Madeleine Barot
Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer
Rev. Alan A. Brash (EACC)
Dr. A. Carrillo de Albornoz
Dr. Leslie E. Cooke
Rev. Rod French
Dr. Norman Goodall
Rev. Victor Hayward
U Kyaw Than (EACC)
Dr. H. Margull
Dr. Z.K. Matthews
Mr. Philippe Maury
Rev. R.E. Maxwell
Bishop Lesslie Newbigin
Dr. N.Nissiotis
Dr. O.F. Nolde
Mr. Frank Northam
Dr. Elfan Rees

Rev. P.C. Rodger
Father Paul Verghese
Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Rev. G.H. Wolfensberger (UBS)
Mr. Ralph C. Young

1. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman.

2. Roll Call

The General Secretary read the roll of members present and reported apologies for absence from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Professor J.L. Hromadka, Archbishop Gunnar Hultgren, Mr. J. Irwin Miller, Dr. J.H. Oldham and Archbishop Frank Woods.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held in Geneva, February 11th to 14th, 1963, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

4. General Secretary's Report

(a) Cairo. Dr. Visser 't Hooft recalled the events that had led to the decision to transfer the February meeting of the Committee from Cairo to Geneva. Immediately following the meeting Dr. Goodall and Fr. Verghese had visited Egypt and were able to have a number of useful conversations with church leaders. The hope had once more been expressed that at some future date it might be possible to hold a World Council meeting in Egypt.

(b) EACC Situation Conferences. Under the auspices of the East Asia Christian Conference "Situation Conferences" had been held in March and April in Madras, Singapore and Tokyo. An important feature of all three meetings had been the attempt to arrive at a common strategy in relation to a number of problems facing the churches in the area. The question of confessionalism and its relation to the ecumenical movement had again been on the agenda; this question would be considered more thoroughly at a consultation to be held in Geneva at the beginning of October at which representatives from the East Asia Christian Conference would be present.

(c) Africa. The World Council had been well represented at the inaugural meeting of the All-Africa Churches Conference, which had been held at Kampala in April. Although the Conference was, in its organization, an entirely independent body, there would be continuing consultation and cooperation with the World Council.

(d) Millenary of Mount Athos. The celebration of the Millenary of Mount Athos had been an interesting occasion, at which the World Council had been represented by Dr. Fry and the General Secretary.

(e) Russia. Dr. Cooke had represented the Council at the fiftieth anniversary of the Episcopal Consecration of Patriarch Alexis in Moscow. There had also been present a small delegation from the Roman Catholic Church.

(f) Faith and Order. Dr. Visser 't Hooft commented briefly on the Fourth World Conference on Faith and Order, about which more would be said in Central Committee. Among criticisms which had been made were (i) that there was a tendency for Faith and Order discussions to become more and more professional, and (ii) that the programme was too complicated and included too many subjects.

(g) Relations with the Roman Catholic Church. This matter would be under discussion at Central Committee where Dr. Vischer would be reporting fully on the first session of the Vatican Council. The officers had sent a telegram of sympathy on behalf of the World Council to Cardinal Bea on the death of Pope John XXIII and had been represented at the funeral service by Dr. Lukas Vischer.

(h) Lutheran World Federation, Helsinki. Dr. Cooke had been the official representative of the World Council at this meeting; other members of the staff had also been present.

(i) Attendance at Central Committee. Attendance at Central Committee promised to be particularly good, and it was gratifying to note that all the Presidents would be present.

During the discussion and comment which followed on a number of the points touched upon in the report, Dr. Fry and others who had been present at the Helsinki Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation reported briefly on what had proved to be a constructive and forward-looking meeting.

The report was received.

5. Preparations for Central Committee

(a) Dr. Goodall spoke to a draft programme and agenda for the forthcoming meeting of Central Committee. After discussion it was AGREED that the draft agenda and programme be approved.

(b) Dr. Goodall presented proposals for the membership and agenda of Policy Reference Committees I, II and III and the Finance Committee of Central Committee. After amendment these were approved for submission to Central Committee.

6. Special Nominations Committee for successor to General Secretary

After consideration of procedures for the appointment by Central Committee of a special Nominations Committee on the General Secretaryship, it was RESOLVED -

that looking forward reluctantly to the approaching retirement of the present General Secretary from office in 1965, the Executive Committee recommend that

1. the Central Committee proceed at this time to constitute a special committee to the Central Committee, the committee to consist of twelve of its members to nominate his successor,

   a. the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, with the former acting as convenor;

b. six members chosen by the Central Committee itself in the manner described below; and

c. four additional members chosen thereafter by the Executive Committee primarily for the purpose of assuring a proper balance, both confessional and geographical, in the membership of the committee.

2. The election indicated in "b" above (namely six members by the Central Committee itself) be conducted as follows:

a. The election shall be by ballot.

b. It shall proceed without oral nominations.

c. All those who are normally entitled under the Rules of the World Council of Churches to vote in Central Committee meetings (that is, its members and regularly designated substitutes) may vote in this election.

d. Voters shall use the officially prepared ballots, placing an "X" before the name of each person for whom a vote is cast.

e. Every voter must vote for <u>exactly six persons</u> or his ballot will be invalid.

f. In making his selection, every voter is urged to keep in mind the desirability of an adequate distribution of the membership of the special nominating committee by confessions and geographical areas.

g. The completed ballots shall be deposited in a ballot box on the platform of the Central Committee meeting room prior to 10.0 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday) morning at which time they will be counted by tellers appointed by the Chairman of the Central Committee.

h. A plurality of the votes cast shall be sufficient to elect: that is, the highest six on the tally of the ballot shall be declared elected whether or not any or all of them receive a majority of the votes cast.

i. In the event of a tie, a second ballot will be taken at once on the floor of the Central Committee.

7. <u>Report of Executive Committee to Central Committee</u>

Dr. Fry drew attention to the draft report of Executive Committee which he would be presenting at the opening session of Central Committee. As this was to be a public meeting and was to be televised it was agreed that the Chairman should have discretion to emphasize certain sections of the report and abbreviate others if this seemed called for. It was further agreed that an additional paragraph dealing with Inter-Church Aid emergency action should be included, and Dr. Cooke was asked to draft a suitable paragraph.

8. <u>Procedures for re-examination of WCC Structure</u>

Dr. Fry recalled the action of the February meeting of the Executive Committee regarding first steps in the implementation of the re-examination of the Council's structure as required by the

New Delhi Assembly. Dr. Visser 't Hooft and Dr. Goodall outlined a proposal of the Staff Executive Group concerning the setting up of the committee envisaged in the resolution of the Executive Committee. After full discussion it was AGREED -

a) that the following recommendation of the February meeting of the Executive Committee concerning procedures for the examination of the Council's Structure be remitted to the Central Committee for consideration through Policy Reference Committee I :

> The Central Committee at its meeting in Paris in August 1962 resolved :
>
> > That the Central Committee approve the Executive Committee's recommendation that the first steps in the re-examination of the Council's structure as required by the Third Assembly should be taken at the Central Committee in August 1963, and ask the officers to make proposals to the Executive Committee for consideration and report to the Central Committee concerning procedures for the carrying out of this review.

After full discussion the Executive Committee RESOLVED - to recommend to Central Committee at its meeting in Rochester

(a) that a committee be set up to give first attention to the following questions :

(i) The Policy Reference Committee at New Delhi, in the paper transmitted directly to the Central Committee, speaks mainly of the need to look at WCC organization after two years or so in the light of WCC-IMC integration.

Does experience in the integrated WCC indicate desirable changes in its present organization ? The effect of integration upon the total should be studied as well as particular points in the WCC structure : DWME-DICARWS, CCIA, Studies in Evangelism and Missionary Studies, and relations with regional bodies.

(ii) The Policy Reference Committee at New Delhi suggested that the increase in membership of the WCC might affect its organization.

Does the augmented membership of the WCC necessitate changes in its structure ? Consideration should be given to the bearing of the increase in membership on the principles of representation in the Assembly and Central and Executive Committees, as set out in the Constitution and Rules.

(iii) The Report on the Future of Faith and Order notes that there will be a re-examination of WCC structure, and this was positively received by the Committee on Faith and Order at New Delhi.

Does experience indicate that further changes concerning Faith and Order in the structure of the WCC are required ?

(b) that in the course of its work the Committee be asked to give attention to structural matters in general, in so far as these - in the committee's discretion - call for reconsideration

(c) that it be borne in mind that it may become necessary to broaden the mandate of the committee to include a consideration of the financial implications involved e.g. in such questions as those arising under point (a)(ii) above.

(d) that the following time-table be considered :

1963 - Rochester : appointment of committee and framing of terms of reference;

1963 - January 1965 : meetings of the committee as needed, interim reports to be made to Executive Committee;

January 1965 : report of committee to Central Committee and decisions concerning future work which may be needed.

b) that a special meeting of the Executive Committee be held during the course of the Central Committee meeting to consider the recommendations of Policy Reference Committee on this matter and to make proposals to the Central Committee concerning the size, composition and officers of the proposed Committee on the Structure of the Council.

The special meeting was duly held on August 30th, and the following minute recorded :

"Committee on the Re-examination of WCC Structure :

(A) Dr. Visser 't Hooft briefly reported considerations concerning the chairmanship of the Committee. Dr.Carleton nominated Dr. Norman Goodall as chairman, noting that by the time the committee would meet Dr. Goodall would no longer be on the staff. Numerous members of the Committee expressing approval, it was AGREED -

to recommend to Central Committee that Dr. Norman Goodall be appointed chairman of the committee on the re-examination of WCC Structure.

(B) After discussion it was AGREED -

to recommend to Central Committee that the following be appointed as members of the committee on the re-examination of WCC Structure :

Dr. Walter Bauer
Dr. Klaus von Bismarck
Archpriest Vitaly Borovoy
Dr. Alford Carleton
Mr. Korula Jacob
Dr. Pieter Kuin
Bishop J.K. Mathews
Mr. J. Irwin Miller
The Metropolitan of Myron
The Rt Rev. David Say

9. Churches and Government Aid

Dr. Cooke reminded the Committee that the issues raised at its last meeting were still under discussion within the two Divisions of Inter-Church Aid and World Mission and Evangelism. The Divisional Committee of DICARWS would be presenting a paper on the subject, with certain specific recommendations, to Central Committee, for consideration through Policy Reference Committee. Bishop Newbigin reported that the Division of World Mission and Evangelism had endorsed the eight principles embodied in the Executive Committee's statement of February and had submitted a further document to the Christian Councils affiliated with the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. Consultation with Christian Councils was proceeding. It was agreed that the matter should be brought to Central Committee which would be asked, through Policy Reference Committee, to deal with the specific recommendations of the DICARWS Divisional Committee.

10. Joint Study Commission with WCCESSA

Fr Verghese recalled the action taken at the February meeting of the Executive Committee in relation to the setting up of a Joint Study Commission with the WCCESSA to consider the responsibility of the Church in the area of education in general and in the nurture and equipment of Christians. The Divisional Committee of the Division of Ecumenical Action now proposed the following revision of the terms of reference then agreed :

1. To consider in the light of the Christian faith the nature and function of education in our changing societies; to examine the nature of the churches' responsibility in and for education; and to work toward the formulation of a common theological understanding of education.

2. To make recommendations to the two sponsoring bodies on ways of assisting the churches in the fulfilment of their

responsibilities in general education and to suggest the priorities to which the organizations should address themselves.

3. To make sample studies of the present practices of the churches in the nurture and training of their members; to ascertain what are the most pressing needs and to suggest how the two organizations might be of assistance to the churches in developing new lines of approach to this task.

After discussion it was RESOLVED -

that the above revised terms of reference be incorporated in the resolution of the February meeting of the Executive Committee for submission to Central Committee.

11. Department of Information - Secretary for Broadcasting

Mr. Maury referred to the action of the New Delhi Assembly regarding the appointment for a two-year period of a member of staff attached to the General Secretariat responsible for broadcasting, who would give half of his time to the Department of Information and half to matters connected with the setting up of the World Association of Christian Broadcasting. Mr. Michael de Vries had been appointed to the post, the appointment being made possible by a grant from the Division of World Mission and Evangelism which would terminate in the summer of 1964. The Department of Information hoped that it would be possible to include the post in the general budget as an addition to the staff of the Department. It was AGREED that the matter be referred to the Finance Sub-Committee.

12. World Conference on Church and Society

Dr. Bilheimer said that a report on the enlarged meeting of the Committee of the Department on Church and Society held in June to consider plans for the World Conference on God, Man and Society in 1966 would be presented to Central Committee. Finance Committee was being asked to agree an estimated budget of $175,000 for this Programme Project, general approval to which had already been given. Dr. Bilheimer asked for the advice of the Committee in regard to the location of the meeting. Various possibilities were discussed and it was finally suggested that consideration be given to the practicability of holding the meeting in Denmark. In regard to finance, Dr. Bilheimer reported that the Bell Trustees had made a grant of £300 towards the expenses of delegates attending the conference, it being understood that this would be applied to the travel subsidy item in the conference budget. The Committee asked that an expression of appreciation be conveyed to the Bell Trustees for their generous gift.

13. Headquarters Properties

Mr. Northam reported briefly on the situation in regard to the new Headquarters construction programme : a full report would be included in the report of the Finance Committee to Central Committee. Mr. Northam asked for action by the Executive Committee in regard

to the use of a further generous gift of $ 25,000 from Mr. Charles Dillon for the provision of a tapestry behind the podium on the closed wall of the Assembly Room. Various enquiries were proceeding in regard to this proposal, but he would like the advice and help of the Executive Committee before any decisions were taken. It was AGREED that the following be asked to act with Mr. Northam as a sub-committee of the Executive Committee to deal with this matter :

Dr. Kathleen Bliss
Bishop Hanns Lilje
Mr. Charles Parlin
Dr. Visser 't Hooft.

14. Future Meetings

(a) Executive Committee

(i) The Metropolitan of Minsk voiced a warm invitation on behalf of the Orthodox Church of Russia for the February meeting of the Committee in 1964 to be held in Russia, probably in the South. If the invitation were accepted he would correspond further with the General Secretary regarding further details. It was AGREED -

that the invitation of the Orthodox Church of Russia to hold the next meeting of the Executive Committee (scheduled for February 10 to 14, 1964) in Russia be accepted and that the Metropolitan of Minsk be asked to express the gratitude of the Committee to his Church.

(ii) The Chairman reminded the Committee that it had been agreed to hold the meeting scheduled for July 27-31, 1964 in Europe, possibly in Geneva. Bishop Lilje said that there would be a warm welcome for the Committee to meet in Germany if this proved practicable. It was AGREED that it be left to the officers to decide on the precise location. The Committee further AGREED that the meeting should not take the form of an "enlarged meeting" except in so far as, in the opinion of the officers, the attendance of any special advisers should prove desirable.

(b) Central Committee

Dr. Visser 't Hooft recalled that it had been agreed to hold the next meeting of Central Committee in a tropical country, the dates fixed being January 12-21, 1965. It had been proposed that the meeting be held in Africa, if possible in a French-speaking area, and the Rev. Jean Kotto had been exploring the possibility of holding it in Cameroun. A definite decision was not possible at this time but Mr. Kotto hoped to be able to give a firm reply by the end of this year. The possibility of Madagascar as an alternative location was also mentioned. Sir Francis Ibiam said he understood the reasons for proposing to hold the meeting in a French-speaking area but should this prove impossible

he wished to extend a cordial invitation for the Committee to meet in Nigeria. It was AGREED -

> to recommend to Central Committee that the next meeting of Central Committee (January 12-21, 1965) be held in Africa, the officers being empowered to make a final decision in regard to its location.

15. Allocation of places at the Fourth Assembly

Dr. Bilheimer spoke to the question of the allocation of places for the Fourth Assembly. He stated that in his judgement there should be a thorough re-examination of the procedures because of (a) the increase in size of the Assembly (700, increased or decreased by 20%, (b) the large number of new churches which had been admitted to membership since the last Assembly, and (c) dissatisfaction which had been expressed regarding the allocation of places to the Third Assembly. After discussion it was AGREED -

(a) that the staff be requested to begin correspondence with churches, national councils of churches (in the United States with the Conference of USA member churches) and with the world confessional organizations, regarding the allocation of places, to solicit opinion on the equitability of the New Delhi allocations and on any factors which should be taken into account in making allocations to the Fourth Assembly.

(b) that a preliminary report be submitted to the meeting of the Executive Committee in July 1964;

(c) that a proposal for allocations be submitted to the Central Committee in January 1965;

(d) that final action be taken by the Central Committee in 1966.

16. Relationship of Divisions with the United Nations Organization and its related agencies

Fr. Verghese spoke to a proposal from the Divisional Committee of the Division of Ecumenical Action concerning relationships with United Nations and its related agencies. The officers of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs outlined the present procedures by which the Divisions were kept informed of documents and actions of United Nations relevant to their special interests. After discussion it was RESOLVED -

> to recommend that the question of consultation, representation information and reference in regard to the United Nations and its special agencies and inter-governmental organizations be further discussed between the officers of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and the appropriate Divisions of the World Council.

19. Commission on Faith and Order - amendment to Constitution

It was RESOLVED -

to recommend to Central Committee that approval be given to the following amendments to the Constitution of the Commission on Faith and Order :

Article 15 shall read :

"In the event of the office of Chairman falling vacant by reason of resignation, incapacity or death, the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairman of the Working Committee shall together be responsible for the appointment of an acting Chairman ..."

Article 16 shall read :

"Not more than four Vice-Chairmen shall be elected on the nomination of the Working Committee, shall hold office for three years, and shall be eligible for re-election."

20. Report of Finance Sub-Committee

The following report of Finance Sub-Committee was received :

(a) Personnel questions : The Finance Sub-Committee examined and approved recommendations from staff for the granting, in accordance with Headquarters Personnel Procedures, of :

(i) a dependent relative allowance for one staff member; and

(ii) paid fares for home leave for the families of five staff members (including provisions interpreting the rules in one exceptional case).

(b) Financial Position under General Budget

The Executive Committee should be aware that it is foreseen that the income available for the General Budget will be inadequate to cover all planned operations beginning in 1964 and the position will become increasingly difficult in the period up to the Fourth Assembly. We thus face a serious situation which will have to be discussed fully by the Finance Committee of the Central Committee. If the Finance Committee should reach the conclusion that an increase in income adequate to cover the total expense of the full approved programme cannot be foreseen, the whole problem may be referred back to the Executive Committee for examination of the problems of priority as between the various parts of the programme of work which will then arise.

17. United Bible Societies - Programme of advance in Scripture distribution

The General Secretary reported a request from the United Bible Societies for the support of a programme of advance in Scripture distribution, including the suggestion that a special appeal should be incorporated in the Whitsuntide Message of the WCC officers. It was AGREED to refer the request, including the followin draft resolutions which had been suggested by the Joint Study Committee of the United Bible Societies and the WCC, to the Policy Reference Committee with a view to Central Committee action in the matter.

1. The Central Committee heard with deep interest of the Scripture distribution project "God's Word for a New Age" launched by the United Bible Societies as an implementatio of the call of the Archbishop of York at the New Delhi Assembly. It recognises this as a practical way by which Scripture distribution may further the common task of the Church through local congregations everywhere.

   The Central Committee therefore recommends that its member churches encourage their local congregations to share in this programme through their active participation.

   (The campaign aims at a Bible in every Christian home, at least a New Testament for every Christian, at least a portion of Scriptures for every literate, the opportunity for every Christian to share in the distribution of the Scripture.)

2. The Central Committee warmly welcomes the invitation of the United Bible Societies to churches and local congregations across the world to emphasize Bible reading, sharing and witness (on Whitsunday) to reaffirm the centrality of the Holy Scriptures in the life and mission of the Church. It supports this invitation and proposes to the member churches to give it the most serious consideration.

18. Observers at the Second Vatican Council

Dr. Visser 't Hooft recalled that the Committee had empowered the officers to appoint WCC Observers to the next session of the Second Vatican Council. He reported the following appointments :

(i) Dr. Lukas Vischer
(ii) Dr. Nikos Nissiotis
(iii) The Rt. Rev. John Sadiq (for the first period)
(iv) Professor Masatoshi Doi (for the second period).

The Metropolitan of Philadelphia said he would like to voice the satisfaction of the Committee in the excellent choice that had been made, and expressed particular appreciation at the appointment of Dr. Nikos Nissiotis.

21. Report of Staffing Committee

The recommendations of Staffing Committee were presented by Dr. Payne and adopted. (See separate minutes, circulated to Executive Committee members only.)

22. Division of Ecumenical Action

(a) Second Staff member in the Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society :

Father Verghese raised the question of the inclusion in the general budget of the salary of the second secretary of the Department; this had hitherto been carried from extra-budgetary sources. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Finance Sub-Committee for consideration in the light of the general financial situation.

(b) Board of Graduate School

On the recommendation of the Divisional Committee it was agreed that the Nominations Committee be asked to add Dr. Masao Takenaka to the membership of the Board of the Graduate School.

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL
MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, August 30th 1963

. Committee on the Re-Examination of WCC Structure

See above, Minute No.8, page 6.

. Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society

After discussion it was AGREED -

that the transfer of the second member of staff to the general budget be not approved.

. Secretariat on Racial and Ethnic Tension

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Payne it was AGREED -

to appoint for a three year term beginning in February 1964, the Rev. Thomas Okuma as secretary for racial and ethnic tensions.

(NOTE : The above action was taken subject to acceptance of the finance committee report by the Central Committee at its Rochester meeting.)